

National Hurricane Program

Working for Safer Communities



BEEBE MEDICAL CENTER
Lewes, Delaware

Evaluation of Emergency Shelters and Critical Facilities

Inspecting and evaluating emergency shelters and critical facilities are two of the many activities carried out by FEMA under its **Hazard Mitigation Technical Assistance Program**.

Structural engineers and experts in building science conduct field investigations to:

- evaluate schools and other public buildings for their suitability to serve as hurricane evacuation shelters, and
- evaluate the vulnerability of hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and other critical facilities that must remain operational during and after natural hazard events.

Structural inspections of walls, floors, roofing systems, doors, and windows are conducted to:

- assess the vulnerability of buildings to high winds (including debris impact), flooding, earthquakes, and other natural hazards, and
- develop recommendations for mitigation techniques intended to enable shelters to provide the necessary protection for their occupants.